

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) The guide apparatus according to claim 25, wherein:
said main body has opening sections formed therein,
each of said opening sections is closed by a corresponding one of said plurality of doors
in said set position, and
each of said opening sections is open when a corresponding one of said is in said non-set
position.
3. (Previously Presented) The guide apparatus according to claim 25 further comprising:
a holding mechanism for holding each of said rotatable rails in said second rotation
position.
4. (Withdrawn) A guide apparatus according to claim 1 wherein:
said rotatable member (50) has a rail portion (51) formed on a distal edge thereof, said
rail portion having a substantially circular cross-section and extending parallel to
said main track;
said supporting surface (51y) comes to the top of a circumferential surface of said rail
portion when said rotatable member is in said first rotation position;
said auxiliary track (51x) comes to the top of said circumferential surface of said rail
portion when said rotatable member is in said second rotation position; and
said runner (15) includes a fitting groove (15a) into which said rail portion is to be fitted.
5. (Withdrawn) A guide apparatus according to claim 4 further comprising:
a biasing member (55) for biasing said rotatable member (50) to said first rotation
position and thus biasing said plate-like object to said set position.
6. (Withdrawn) A guide apparatus according to claim 1 or 4 wherein:

a plurality of said plate-like objects are provided;
all of said plate-like objects are flush with each other when they are all in said set position and arranged side by side with each other;
each of said plate-like objects is provided with a rail member (11) including an additional track (11x) of the same length as said auxiliary track (51x) of said rotatable member (50); and
said rail member of each one of said plate-like objects in said set position serves as at least a part of said main rail for the other of said plate-like objects.

7. (Withdrawn) A guide apparatus according to claim 6 wherein:
said main body is provided with a fixed rail (39) extending to the left and right: and
said main rail comprises said fixed rail and said rail member (11) of said plate-like object in said set position.
8. (Withdrawn) A guide apparatus according to claim 6 wherein:
the length of said rail member of said plate-like object is generally the same as the width of said plate-like object; and
said main rail is composed solely of said rail member of said plate-like object in said set position.
9. (Previously Presented) The guide apparatus according to claim 25, wherein:
at least one of said plurality of rotatable rails includes a receiving groove extending in a longitudinal direction of said rotatable rail;
an inner surface of said receiving groove includes said supporting surface and said auxiliary track; and
said roller is received in said receiving groove when a corresponding one of said plurality of doors is in said set position and in said preparation position.
10. (Previously Presented) The guide apparatus according to claim 9 wherein:
a support bracket is rotatably connected to said corresponding one of said plurality of doors in such a way that said support bracket rotates about a second rotation axis parallel to said first rotation axis; and

said roller is supported in said support bracket.

11. (Previously Presented) The guide apparatus according to claim 10 wherein:

said roller is of a disc shape and is turnably supported in a distal end portion of said support bracket, so that said roller lies with a side surface thereof abutting said supporting surface of said receiving groove when said rotatable rail is in said first rotation position and said roller stands up with a circumferential surface thereof abutting said auxiliary track when said rotatable rail is in said second rotation position.

12. (Withdrawn) A guide apparatus according to claim 10 or 11 wherein:

said another rotation axis of said runner support bracket (86) is located behind said rotation axis of said rotatable member (81) when said rotatable member is in said first rotation position; and

said another rotation axis of said runner support bracket is located in front of said rotation axis of said rotatable member when said rotatable member is in said second rotation position.

13. (Previously Presented) The guide apparatus according to claim 11 further comprising:

a biasing member which applies rotation torque to said support bracket, thereby biasing said corresponding one of said plurality of doors to said set position.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Withdrawn) A guide apparatus according to claim 1 or 9 wherein:

a plurality of said plate-like objects are provided;

all of said plate-like objects are flush with each other when they are all in said set position and arranged side by side with each other;

said runner support bracket (86) is mounted on each of said plate-like objects;

said runner support bracket includes an additional track (86z) of the same length as said auxiliary track (82c); and

said additional track of said runner support bracket corresponding to each one of said plate-like objects serves as at least a part of said main rail for the other of said plate-like objects when said rotatable member is in said first rotation position.

17. (Withdrawn) A guide apparatus according to claim 1 wherein:

said runner (15) is disposed in an upper edge portion of said plate-like object; and

said plate-like object is suspendedly supported by said rotatable member (50) when said plate-like object is in said set position or in said preparation position.

18. (Previously Presented) The guide apparatus according to claim 25 wherein:

said roller is disposed in either said upper or lower edge portion of said plurality of doors; a secondary runner is disposed in the other of said upper and lower edge portions of said plurality of doors; and

the guide apparatus further comprises: a guide member which guides said secondary runner when said plurality of doors move between said set position and said preparation position; and

a secondary rail which guides said secondary runner when said plurality of doors move between said preparation position and said non-set position.

19. (Previously Presented) The guide apparatus according to claim 18, wherein:

said secondary runner includes a projection projecting at least either to the left or right; and

said guide member includes a guide groove which guides said projection.

20. (Previously Presented) The guide apparatus according to claim 19, wherein:

said secondary runner includes a running portion which runs in a groove formed in said secondary rail and a running portion support bracket which is mounted on said plurality of doors to support said running portion; and

said running portion support bracket is provided with said projection.

21. (Previously Presented) The guide apparatus according to claim 19, wherein:

said plurality of doors move upward or downward while said plurality of doors move between said set position and said preparation position; and
said guide groove of said guide member is linearly inclined corresponding to the displacement of said plurality of doors.

22. (Previously Presented) The guide apparatus according to claim 21 wherein:

said guide member includes a vertical groove continuous with said guide groove; and
said projection of said secondary runner is received in said vertical groove when said plurality of doors are in said set position.

23. (Withdrawn) A guide apparatus according to claim 19 wherein:

said plate-like object takes the highest or the lowest position while moving from said set position to said preparation position; and
said guide groove (405) includes a horizontal portion (405a) extending in a front and rear direction and a back end portion (405b) extending upward or downward from a rear end of said horizontal portion.

24. (Previously Presented) The guide apparatus according to claim 18 wherein:

said secondary runner includes a rail portion which is continuous with said secondary rail when said plurality of doors are in said set position.

25. (Currently Amended) A guide apparatus for guiding a movement of a plurality of doors with respect to a main body between a set position and a preparation position that is in front of or behind said set position and between said preparation position and a non-set position positioned at a side of said preparation position, wherein said plurality of doors are flush with each other in said set position and when arranged side by side, said guide apparatus comprising:

a roller mounted on at least one of upper and lower edge portions of each of said plurality of doors; and

a plurality of rotatable rails having a length approximately equal to a width of said plurality of doors and arranged in a line extending horizontally in a left and right direction,

wherein each of said plurality of rotatable rails is supported by said main body such that said plurality of rotatable rails rotate between a first rotation position and a second rotation position about a first rotation axis extending horizontally in the left and right direction,

wherein each of said plurality of rotatable rails includes a supporting surface, an auxiliary track, and an additional track parallel to said auxiliary track,

wherein in said first rotation position, each of said plurality of rotatable rails ~~said rotatable-rail~~ supports a corresponding one of said plurality of doors in said set position by making said roller ride on said supporting surface,

wherein in said second rotation position, each of said plurality of rotatable rails ~~said rotatable-rail~~ supports a corresponding one of said plurality of doors in said preparation position by making said roller ride on said auxiliary track, and

wherein when one of two adjacent ones of said plurality of rotatable rails is in said second rotation position, said auxiliary track of said one of two adjacent ones of said plurality of rotatable rails is continuous with said additional track of the other of said two adjacent ones of said plurality of rotatable rails in said first rotation position.